

Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update

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HEALTH REFORM

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury have issued regulations on grandfathered health plans under the Affordable Care Act: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100614c.html>

This webchat describes how the Affordable Care Act will give individuals and families more choices and provide stronger consumer protections: <http://www.youtube.com/user/USHealthReform#p/p/E13B55ACDF862D29/0/IvYPB3hgdLo>

This *Kaiser Health News* article describes additional benefits for new moms and pregnant women as a result of health reform: <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Features/Insuring-Your-Health/Pregnant-Women-And-New-Mothers-Will-Get-Benefits-Services-Under-Health-Care-Law.aspx>

Seniors across the country recently joined President Obama's discussion on health reform and Medicare: http://www.healthreform.gov/forums/blog/seniors_across_the_country_join_president_obamas_discussion.html

This blog post also describes ways that the new legislation will strengthen Medicare: <http://www.healthreform.gov/forums/blog/seniorstownhall.html>

The IRS has issued regulations on the 10 percent tax on indoor tanning services included in the health reform law: <http://healthreformgps.org/resources/irs-issues-regulations-on-indoor-tanning-tax/>

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

National Men's Health Week is celebrated each year the week leading up to and including Father's Day. During the week, individuals, families, communities, and others work to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This US CDC website describes what you can do to promote awareness during Men's Health Week: <http://www.cdc.gov/men/nmhw/index.htm>

This US CDC website (http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HealthyMen/?s_cid=tw_cdc25) has daily steps to help men be safer, stronger, and healthier.

Every year, nearly 300,000 American men die of cancer. This US CDC website discusses ways men can lower their risk: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/CancerAndMen/?s_cid=tw_cdc27

MAINE AWARDED SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS TO DECREASE YOUTH SMOKING RATES

Maine is one of the first states to receive a competitive grant from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase the enforcement of state and federal tobacco laws. These funds will supplement the efforts of the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Maine (<http://www.tobaccofreemaine.org/>) and help the state reverse the recent upward trend in teenage smoking rates. The rate of smoking among Maine high school students reached a low of 14% in 2007, but increased to 18% in 2009.

Under the contract administered by the Maine Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Health and Human Services will receive more than \$750,000 to increase enforcement of federal and state tobacco laws. According to both federal and state law, tobacco sales to anyone under 18 are prohibited and retailers must check IDs of anyone under 27. For more information, see the press release at <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&id=99047&v=article-2008>

INFLUENZA UPDATE

This MMWR (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm59e0602a1.htm>) discusses the preliminary results of surveillance for Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) related to H1N1 flu vaccination. Initial findings show a rate of GBS among people receiving H1N1 vaccine similar to that found in seasonal influenza vaccines. No system has detected a statistically significant association between GBS and H1N1 vaccination; surveillance and further analyses are ongoing. The H1N1 vaccine safety profile is similar to that for seasonal influenza vaccines, which have an excellent safety record.

Planning efforts for the fall flu vaccine campaign are currently underway. Consent forms and other tools for schools conducting vaccine clinics are being developed and will be posted on the Maine CDC web site as soon as they are finalized, around the time that Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are released.

A number of updates have been made to the www.maineinflu.gov web site. Streamlined information for schools is posted at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineinflu/h1n1/educators.shtml>.

RECENTLY ISSUED HEALTH ALERTS

- The U.S. CDC recently issued a Health Advisory on the potential for Q fever infection among travelers returning from Iraq and the Netherlands. View the full alert at: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=98525&an=2>
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting healthcare professionals not to use certain intravenous (IV) bags of metronidazole, ondansetron, and ciprofloxacin because of potential contamination. FDA has received reports of floating matter in IV bags manufactured by Claris Lifesciences Limited, in Ahmedabad, India. Microbiological analysis identified the matter in one of the bags as a Cladosporium mold. Molds of this type can cause infections in susceptible patients, such as immunocompromised individuals. At this time, FDA is not aware of any reports of injuries due to administration of these products. Affected products include any metronidazole, ondansetron, and ciprofloxacin manufactured by Claris Lifesciences Limited and sold under the following labels: Claris, Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer, West-Ward Pharmaceuticals. View the full alert at: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=98407&an=2>

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

National HIV Testing Day is June 27. An estimated one out of five Americans who are living with HIV does not know his or her status, and this new study shows that most Americans and Canadians with HIV begin care too late:

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_99610.html

A list of test sites is available here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/hiv-std/resources.shtml#testingsites>

TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY THIS SUMMER

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has posted this advice on how to enjoy the summer and avoid health problems due to heat and skin cancer: <http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Jun2010/Feature1>

This food safety blog describes safe grilling and food handling when eating outdoors:

http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/fathers_day.html

Children's eyes are more at risk for long-term damage from UV rays. This website describes how to pick safe sunglasses for kids: http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/042710_1.html

For information about protecting yourself and others from recreational water illnesses, visit:

www.mainepublichealth.gov/healthyswimming

Severe weather this summer could cause power outages. This US CDC site lists steps you can take to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning if your power goes out: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/COpoisoning/?s_cid=tw_cdc23 and this food safety blog has helpful information about keeping food safe in the event of power failures:

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/hurricane.html>

OTHER UPDATES

- The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has completed its report to the USDA & HHS secretaries: www.dietaryguidelines.gov
- It's National Safety Month. Learn how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe from unintentional poisoning: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PoisonPrevention/?s_cid=tw_cdc21
- HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has launched the Cities and Towns component of the *Let's Move!* Campaign, which encourages local officials to adopt a long-term, sustainable, and holistic approach to fight child obesity in their communities. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100611c.html>

STAY UPDATED

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
 - Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MaineCDC>)
 - Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
 - MySpace (www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth)
 - Maine CDC's Blog (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance**, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- **For general questions on flu**, call 2-1-1 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week or e-mail flu.questions@maine.gov